



Judy Hackett, Ed.D.
Tim Thomas, Ed.D.
Co-Interim Superintendents

Executive Board Meeting Summary
Thursday, March 20, 2025

PLEDGE AND AGENDA

Following the Call to Order/Roll Call and Pledge of Allegiance by President Lind, the Board accepted the agenda.

CONSENT AGENDA

Minutes and financial matters were approved along with the following personnel items:

- ~ Request for Contracts for 1 educational support personnel (ESP)
- ~ Resignations/retirements by 2 ESP and 3 licensed staff

SPECIAL RECOGNITION

STARS February Student of the Month

The Board recognized a student from Ms. Kim Eden's classroom at Cyd Lash Academy as the March STARS student. This student has grown tremendously since coming to CLA three years ago. He has gone from being completely closed off to becoming a peer mentor for the middle school students in PE. He continues to build positive relationships with staff and peers.

Employee of the Month

The Board recognized Mr. Curtis Hines, Cyd Lash Academy, long term substitute, as March's Employee of the Month. Mr. Hines is a true asset to Cyd Lash Academy. He is reliable, cooperative, and is always ready to help wherever he is needed. He approaches each challenge with a positive attitude and is committed to the students' success.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no Public Comment.

SEDOL CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT PLAN (CIP) PRESENTATIONS

Mr. Kurt Preble, Cyd Lash Academy Principal shared how identified objectives of the CIP are guiding the programs at Cyd Lash Academy.

CIP Goal Alignment: SEDOL CIP Goal I- Provide exceptional programs and services to meet the needs of students throughout the SEDOL community. Objective D: Develop and implement curriculum frameworks for each program.

1. Cyd Lash RiSK Initiative: Establishes a framework of **R**esponsible, **S**afe, and **K**ind behaviors (the "i" stands for I can be....)
RiSK Goals:
 - a. Student goal setting with accountability and self-correction
 - b. Support Social Emotional Learning as a curricular framework
 - c. Professional Development fostering a culture of kindness and inclusion
2. What is RiSK Initiative?

- a. **R**esponsible: Appropriate use of technology, cleaning up after yourself, being on task, following directions
- b. **S**afe: Appropriate interactions, staying in designated areas with staff, hands/feet to self, communicating needs appropriately
- c. **K**ind: Helping classmates/staff, using kind words, saying please/thank you, greeting peers/staff

Currently:

- a. Full-day focus on each attribute: to reinforce positive behavior expectations.
- b. Raffles for students and staff: to encourage engagement and participation
- c. All-school assembly: to celebrate successes and build momentum for continued improvement
- d. Buy-in: Staff is engaged in the process and students are excited about the recognition of their efforts.

Next Steps:

- a. Utilize student voice: to generate new ideas and increase engagement
- b. Create celebratory environments: to sustain motivation and reinforce positive behaviors
- c. Analyze and revise: to ensure long-term success of Goal 1 and RiSK

OLD BUSINESS

Facilities Update

Dr. Johns provided a facilities update to the Board. He informed them that we have been approved for a \$50,000 maintenance grant, our camera project has been completed, a rekeying project will happen this summer in the buildings, safety and security plans for elopers have been developed, an HVAC owner training will occur for the systems recently installed at Cyd Lash Academy and the administration building, and we are reapplying for a safety grant again this year that we were previously denied. It is not uncommon for this grant to be denied the first few times you apply. Dr. Johns also mentioned that he is currently working on long range projections through 2030 and will present those at a later date.

NEW BUSINESS

Infinitec Contract

The Board approved the FY26 Infinitec contract. This contract includes SEDOL member districts through the Articles of Joint Agreement. Contract amount is determined based on the prior year's Fall Housing Report submitted to ISBE at a cost of \$.76 per student with a maximum amount of \$48,950.

2025-26 SEDOL School Calendar

The Board approved the 2025-26 SEDOL School Calendar. The proposed calendar was developed based on the suggested calendar from the Regional Superintendent of Schools, but it was modified to fit the special needs of SEDOL facilities. The calendar pertains to Laremont School, Gages Lake School, Cyd Lash Academy, Fairhaven School, SEDOL Vocational Program, Transition Program at John Powers Center, REACH Community Site, the Regional Safe School Program, the ALOP Program and the administrative office. All other programs follow the calendar as established by the host school district for the class/program/attached building. It should be noted that Casimir Pulaski Day, March 2nd, could be used as a make-up day if an emergency day were to be used prior to March 2nd.

Broker of Record

The Board approved AJ Gallagher as the Broker of Record effective April 1, 2025, for all employee benefit insurance related items.

Health Insurance Program

The Board approved SEDOL participation in the Northern Illinois Health Insurance Program with an initial 3-year term of participation. Participating in this program will reduce current insurance rates.

CLOSED SESSION

The Board entered into closed session to discuss:

The appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance or dismissal of specific employees of the public body or legal counsel for the public body, including hearing testimony on a complaint lodged against an employee of the public body or against legal counsel for the public body to determine its validity.

OTHER BUSINESS

Recommendations for FY26 Personnel Reduction in Force and Dismissals

The Board approved necessary personnel dismissals for the 2025-26 school year to include the following two resolutions:

- #1 Honorable Dismissal of Teachers to include Cooper Smith, Michelle Pinta, Leticia Mendez-Garza, and Rico McCoy;
- #2 Honorable Dismissal of Educational Support Personnel Employees to include Delsey Hughes and Carol Nguyen.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Dr. Wojcik presented personnel related items discussed at the March 12, 2025 Personnel Committee meeting. Topics included: FY26 enrollment projects, increase/decrease to programs district wide, retirements, reduction in force, displaced staff, anticipated vacancies, and new proposed positions.

INFORMATIONAL

1. SEDOL Foundation Events

- Laremont Trivia Night- March 15 at Lehmann Mansion in Lake Villa- Next year March 7, 2026
- Dinner Dance- April 26 with a Kentucky Derby theme
- Pucks for Autism- June 20-22- will need volunteers to keep score, no experience needed!!

2. Upcoming Events

April:

Miles of Smiles Dentist	Fairhaven(JPC)	4.14.25	All day
Miles of Smiles Dentist	Gages Lake(CLA)	4.15.25	All day
Healthy Kids Week	John Powers	4.21-4.25.25	All day
SEDOL Foundation Dinner Dance	TBD	4.26.25	
Deaf Hobby Club	JPC	4.12.25	9:00-12:00

May:

Prom	Laremont	5.2.25	
Unified Sports Day	Fairhaven	5.2.25	
Unified Sports Day	Laremont	5.9.25	
Prom	Fairhaven	5.16.25	
Promotion/Graduation	Cyd Lash	5.16.25	
Transition Recognition	Laremont/DHH/Cyd	5.21.25	6:00 p.m.
Retirement Ceremony	GLS Community Rm	5.22.25	4:00 p.m.
DHH 8th Grade Hawthorn Graduation	JPC	5.27.25	8:00 p.m.
DHH High School Graduation	Grayslake North	5.29.25	

Program Highlights

- Gages Lake School- Students engaged in Respect week by learning about various disabilities and creating a chain of hands, our therapy dog, Hope, has been pushing into

classrooms to help with transitions between classes, students who are on Tier 1 are eating lunch in the cafeteria with each other providing an opportunity to utilize their social skills.

- Cyd Lash Academy- Taking a Healthy RiSK Initiative kicked off focusing on being Responsible, Safe and Kind, held the first whole school assembly since before COVID and it was a big success, IAR testing is underway.
- Laremont School- Students participated in Respect Week with various activities including a signing of the respect banner and a spirit week to highlight various disabilities, DLM testing has started, the Laremont community got ready for Trivia Night. Students participated in getting materials ready for center pieces and auction items and parents came in to help assemble things!
- Fairhaven School- Students engaged in Respect week activities making a chain of respect, staff and students are participating in Spring Spirit week from March 3.17-3.21, students are enjoying the playground in this Spring weather, we celebrated our Magic Makers of the month!
- John Powers Center- Movie Night was a success, students engaged in Respect Week activities, deaf volleyball team took 2nd place in the tournament.
- RSSP- Eight Staff members attended Illinois Coalition for At-Risk Youth (ICEARY) Conference, students who earned at least two certificates for practicing a random act of kindness in February were rewarded with a special lunch- 100% of students earned this reward, Community Works will work with students on 3/19, RSSP has continued our partnership with Brotherly Love to complete a six-week session with a new group of students.
- Sector- Students got out into the community to mail letters and use their communication devices to order at restaurants, students are being CHAMPS helpers in their host building sites!
- Vocational- Student workers at Leider help with spring arrangements, 8 of which are on sale in the Cafe and area Costcos, Mitsubishi Mentoring Day is March 19

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Dr. Lind informed the Board that interviews to select a search firm to begin the process of the new superintendent search will be held on April 22nd from 6:00 - 8:00 p.m. The recommended firm will be brought to the Executive Board at the April 24th meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

With no other items to discuss, the meeting was adjourned.

2024-25 Executive Board Meeting Schedule

SEDOL Office Bay Room

Thursday, April 3 17, 2025 - 8:30 a.m. *Special meeting on tentative budget (date change)*

Thursday, April 24, 2025 - 8:30 a.m.

Thursday, May 22, 2025 - 8:30 a.m.

Thursday, June 26, 2025 - 8:30 a.m.

Thursday, July 24, 2025 - 8:30 a.m.

2024-25 Governing Board Meeting Schedule

Gages Lake School Community Room

Wednesday, June 4, 2025 – 7:00 p.m.

SPECIAL EDUCATION DISTRICT OF LAKE COUNTY

18160 W Gages Lake Rd, Gages Lake, Illinois 60030-1819

847-548-8470 Fax 847-548-8472 VP 224-207-8476

www.sedol.us



School Calendar 2025-2026

August 2025						
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Aug 13	Institute Day- No Students
Aug 14	Institute Day- No Students
Aug 15	Institute Day- No Students
Aug 15	Open House 2:30 - 3:30 pm
Aug 18	First Day Student Attendance - Full Day
Sep 1	Labor Day - School Holiday
Sep 4	Curriculum Night 6:00 - 7:00 pm
Sep 17	1/2 Day School Improvement, 11:45 Dismissal
Oct 2	Non-Attendance Day
Oct 13	Indigenous Peoples' Day - School Holiday
Oct 17	1/2 Day School Improvement, 11:45 Dismissal*
Oct 23	Evening Parent/Teacher Conference 3:45-7:45pm
Oct 24	No Student Attendance P/T Conferences 8:00-11:00am
Nov 12	1/2 Day School Improvement, 11:45 Dismissal
Nov 26	Non-Attendance Day
Nov 27	Thanksgiving- School Holiday
Nov 28	Non-Attendance Day
Dec 19	1/2 Day School Improvement, 11:45 Dismissal*
Dec 22	Winter Break Begins
Jan 5	School Resumes
Jan 19	ML King's Birthday- School Holiday
Jan 28	1/2 Day School Improvement, 11:45 Dismissal
Feb 13	Institute Day - No Students
Feb 16	Presidents' Day - School Holiday
Mar 2	Casimir Pulaski Day - School Holiday**
Mar 6	Parent/Teacher Conference All Day - No Students
Mar 20	1/2 Day School Improvement, 11:45 Dismissal*
Mar 23	Spring Break Begins
Mar 30	School Resumes
Apr 3	Non-Attendance Day
Apr 22	1/2 Day School Improvement, 11:45 Dismissal
May 25	Memorial Day - School Holiday
May 29	Last Day (if no Emergency Days used)
May 29	1/2 Day School Improvement, 11:45 Dismissal*
	End of 1st quarter - 10/10
	End of 2nd quarter - 12/19
	End of 3rd quarter - 03/13
	End of 4th quarter - 05/29

February 2026						
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May 2026						
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June 2026						
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- First Day / School Resumes
- X Non-Attendance Day
- H Holiday
- Institute Day - No Students
- //// 1/2 Day School Improvement
- Parent/Teacher Conference - No Students
- Emergency Days - if needed

School Day - 8:45am - 2:30pm

YJC:rh Board approved on 03.20.25

*IEP paperwork days: 10/17, 12/19, 03/20, 05/29

**Use as a potential emergency day if needed.

Exceptional Services for Exceptional Students by Exceptional Staff